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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR/Western Europe/Near East

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SUBJECT Estimated Soviet Block Exports of Crude Oil and Products

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Based on information so far available, it is estimated that the Soviet Union and Satellites will export to countries in Western Europe and the Near East about 4.1 million tons (29 million barrels) in 1954.

2. A summary of these exports is given below in metric tons:

Country	Crude Oil	Products	Total	% Industry Consumption
Belgium	-	100,000	100,000	2.8
Denmark	-	44,000	44,000	1.9
Egypt	-	340,000	340,000	7.7
Finland	-	791,250	791,250	89.7
France	225,000	100,000	325,000	2.2
Germany	-	345,000	345,000	4.2
Greece	-	300,000	300,000	23.2
Iceland	-	200,000	200,000	67.7
Israel	100,000	100,000	200,000	18.4
Italy	350,000	200,000	550,000	6.5
Netherlands	-	115,000	115,000	2.7
Norway	-	104,000	104,000	5.1
Sweden	-	600,000	600,000	10.1
Switzerland	-	100,000	100,000	6.4
Total of Countries Affected	675,000	3,439,250	4,114,250	6.9
Total Western Europe, North Africa & Near East:	-	-	-	4.3

3. This compares with 2.2 million tons (15 million bbls) of Soviet Block exports for 1953.

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4. Preliminary estimates for 1955 indicate that total Soviet Block exports may well be double the 1954 exports or over 8 million tons. (53 million bbls).
5. Some of the products exported by the Soviet Block, namely, fuel oil and diesel oil f.i. are of better quality than the West can offer due to their low sulphur content in comparison with Middle East oil. On the other hand, kerosene, is of such low quality that at times it requires reprocessing to be usable.
6. Situations encountered in connection with Soviet Block supplies in the various countries, may be summed up, as follows:
 1. Pools or Monopolies: In countries where pools and monopolies exist, like in Finland and Iceland respectively, there is no alternative but to accept the Soviet Block supplies.
 2. Trade Agreements: These are concluded with Soviet Block countries on a barter basis. As under such arrangements the countries concerned are offered the opportunity to increase their exports, major marketing companies often are pressured by the respective governments to assist in the importation of Soviet Block oil. Denmark and Egypt may be mentioned in this category.
 3. Open Sales: Soviet supplies may be economical for certain marketing areas and for that reason are imported by private companies or agencies with Government approval. In such instances marketing companies operating in the area either have to meet competition by price cutting or relinquish business. Germany and Switzerland may be cited under this heading.

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